

February 4, 1949

The 1949 Winter Storm Emergency

Summary of Wired Reports by State Directors of Extension in the Storm Emergency
States Received on February 2 and 3, 1949.

Colorado, Director F. A. Anderson

. . . WE CONDUCTED SURVEY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING QUANTITY AND PRICE OF SURPLUS HAY AND HAVE MADE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN RESPONSE TO ALL REQUESTS RECEIVED. WHEN INFORMED BY YOU THAT STATE FMA CHAIRMAN HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE LIVESTOCK RELIEF PROGRAM WE FURNISHED HIM WITH INFORMATION ASSEMBLED BY US WITH COPY TO GOVERNOR. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE DAMAGE FROM FLOODS AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 1 AND ONLY THEN IF WE HAVE EXCESSIVE PRECIPITATION IN APRIL AND MAY.

Kansas, Director L. C. Williams

NO SPECIFIC EMERGENCY EXISTS IN KANSAS AS RESULT OF RECENT STORM. EXTENSION AGENTS ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LIVESTOCK AND FEED SITUATION. AMPLE FEED SUPPLIES ARE GENERAL, ALTHOUGH IN A FEW CASES HAY IS BEING MOVED INTO WESTERN KANSAS. A FEW RIVERS HAVE BEEN OUT RESULT OF ICE BUT SITUATION APPEARS TO BE WELL IN HAND FOR PRESENT.

Montana, Director R. B. Tootell

LIVESTOCK FEED EMERGENCY NOT YET CRITICAL IN MONTANA. AMPLE FEED BUT NO SURPLUS IF LONGER THAN NORMAL WINTER. MONTANA EXTENSION SERVICE HAS MADE COUNTY BY COUNTY SURVEY AND WILL MAINTAIN WEEKLY REPORTS BY COUNTIES. HAVE MET WITH COMMITTEES OF MONTANA LEGISLATURE CONSIDERING THE PROBLEM. STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION SET UP TO OPEN ROADS AND GET FEED TO STRANDED LIVESTOCK. COUNTY AGENT DESIGNATED AS LOCAL POINT IN COUNTIES. FLOOD DAMAGE NOT A POSSIBILITY BEFORE MAY OR JUNE. LETTER FOLLOWS.

Nebraska, Director H. G. Gould

ALL EXTENSION MEETINGS AND TRAINING CONFERENCES IN EMERGENCY AREA CANCELLED TO ALLOW AGENTS TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO STORM RELIEF. AGENTS WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMITTEES TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN AND ANIMAL DISTRESS. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES REPORTED BY DIFFERENT AGENTS INCLUDE FOLLOWING: CLEARING HOUSE FOR LOCAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN AND LIVESTOCK NEEDS; ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTEER CREWS TO CLEAR ROADS AND TRAILS; LOCATION OF AVAILABLE FEED SUPPLIES; REPORTING OF SITUATION AND NEEDS TO RELIEF AGENCIES; WEEKLY REPORT OF CONDITIONS TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN AND EXTENSION SERVICE; SUPERVISION OF TRAIL BREAKING AND FEED TRANSPORT OPERATIONS; RADIO APPEALS FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE; RECEIVING OF TELEPHONE REQUESTS FOR HELP FROM ISOLATED FARMS AND RANCHES . . . EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMEN BROADCASTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEEDING PRACTICES FOR WEAKENED STOCK TO MINIMIZE LOSSES NOW AND WHEN GRASS STARTS. NO SERIOUS FLOOD

DANGER EXPECTED IN WORST STORM AREAS BUT HAZARD IN LOWER VALLEYS IN CASE OF SUDDEN THAW AND ICE JAMS. RESIDENTS OF SUCH AREAS TO BE WARNED. OPENING OF TRAILS BETWEEN LIVESTOCK WATER AND FEED SUPPLIES IS GREAT IMMEDIATE NEED. BEING MET IN BEST POSSIBLE MANNER BY COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS.

Nevada, Director C. W. Creel

LIVESTOCK AND STORM EMERGENCY CONTINUE TO OCCUPY ENTIRE ATTENTION EASTERN NEVADA COUNTY EXTENSION STAFFS. DISTRICT AGENT HELPHINSTINE, ASSISTANT AGENT WHALEN BOTH STATIONED AT ELY AND COUNTY AGENT BUNKER STATIONED AT CALIENTE CARRYING HEAVIEST LOAD. THEY ARE TELEPHONING HAY NEEDS TO COUNTY AGENTS IN WESTERN NEVADA WHO LOCATE SOURCES SUPPLY. THEY ARE ALSO PERSONALLY ASSISTING ARMY IN DISTRIBUTING HAY TO STRANDED FLOCKS AND HERDS. CONTINUED STORMS MAY RESULT IN FEED SHORTAGE NORTHERN NEVADA COUNTIES. AGENTS THESE COUNTIES NOW ACTIVELY SURVEYING SITUATION. EXTENSION COOPERATING ALL FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES INVOLVED. EXTENSION AGENT WITMER LAS VEGAS REPORTS BOTH MOAPA AND VIRGIN VALLEY AGRICULTURAL AREAS STAND IN GREAT FLOOD DANGER AS SOON AS THAW OCCURS IN UPPER WATERSHEDS. SITUATION WILL BE GREATER THAN LOCAL FARMERS CAN COPE WITH. HE URGES IMMEDIATE PROTECTIVE WORK BY U. S. ARMY ENGINEERS . . .

North Dakota, Director E. J. Haslerud

FIRST REPORT ON FEED, COAL, AND FOOD EMERGENCY JUST RECEIVED FROM COUNTY AGENT MINOT. BAD SITUATION JUST DEVELOPING. I JUST FINISHED CONFERENCE WITH GOVERNOR. HE ARRANGED FOR IMMEDIATE USE OF C47.

The following wire had also been previously received from Mr. M. H. McDonald, Extension Livestock Agent in North Dakota:

. . . . HEAVY SNOW IN WEST AND NORTH AREA AND THERE WILL BE LOCAL SHORTAGES OF FEED UNLESS WEATHER MODERATES. COUNTY AGENTS OFFICES IN THESE COUNTIES SERVE AS HEADQUARTERS FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS HAY COAL AND SICK CALLS. FUEL BIGGEST PROBLEM. NO MORE THAN AVERAGE YEARLY DANGER OF FLOOD APPEARS NOW.

Oklahoma, Director Shawnee Brown

. . . . SNOW SLEET ICE FOUR TO SEVEN INCHES OVER NORTHWEST 3/4 STATE THAWING SLOWLY NO APPARENT DANGER OF FLOODING. FEED SUPPLIES STILL ADEQUATE LARGE QUANTITIES FEED MOVING NORTHWEST INTO MORE CRITICAL AREAS SUPPLIES WILL NOT LAST LONG UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. DEATH LOSS LIVESTOCK LIGHT. AGENTS IN TOUCH WITH SITUATION FURNISH INFORMATION ON FEED SUPPLIES AND OTHER INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE AS MAYBE NEEDED.

South Dakota, Director George I. Gilbertson

EXTENSION AGENTS AND AREA SUPERVISORS WORKING WITH GOVERNORS COMMITTEE AND ARMY IN LIVESTOCK AND HUMAN EMERGENCY. LIVESTOCK FEED SUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT BRINGING LIVESTOCK AND FEED SUPPLIES TOGETHER. AGENTS AND THEIR COUNTY LIVESTOCKS ASSOCIATIONS LOCATING AND MAPPING ISOLATIVE SITUATIONS.

Texas, Vice Director J. D. Prewitt

. . . . STORM DAMAGE TO TEXAS AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK NOT AS SERIOUS AS EXPECTED. CITRUS ESCAPED SERIOUS DAMAGE. TRUCK CROPS COMPLETELY WIPED OUT. ONLY LOSS AMONG LIVESTOCK WAS SMALL LAMBS. NO DANGER FROM FLOOD DAMAGE. STATEWIDE SURVEY AS TO KINDS AND AMOUNTS OF FEED ON HAND AND NEEDS BEING MADE NOW. COUNTY AGENTS ORGANIZING EMERGENCY MEASURES ON A COUNTY BASIS. PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR ADDITIONAL STORMS THAT MIGHT OCCUR THIS MONTH AND NEXT. WEAKENED CONDITIONS OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO PROLONGED DROUGHT COULD CAUSE LOSSES WITH ADDITIONAL BAD WEATHER.

Utah, Director Carl Frischknecht

SITUATION STILL SERIOUS. SMALLER OPERATORS NEEDED FEDERAL AID TO PURCHASE \$40.00 HAY. SHORTAGE OF HAY IN VALLEYS WILL BECOME CRITICAL AS ON DESERT RANGE IF BAD WEATHER CONTINUES. AIR LIFTS INEFFECTIVE. DEATH LOSSES LIGHT TO DATE. HIGHER LOSSES ANTICIPATED. 10,000 TONS HAY NEEDED AT REDUCED PRICE. CONCENTRATES PLENTIFUL. EXTENSION WORKERS FORMULATING AND DISTRIBUTING FEED AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS VIA RADIO PRESS PHONE MAIL VISITS. AGENTS ASSISTING PRODUCERS AND STATE COMMITTEE WITH PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION HAY PELLETS CONCENTRATES. AGENTS IN CRITICAL COUNTIES SPENDING FULL TIME ON EMERGENCY.

Wyoming, County Agent Leader F. L. Schilt

DIRECTOR BOWMAN IN CHICAGO. COUNTY AGENT HEADING UP EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK COMMITTEES IN EACH COUNTY. COMMITTEES CONSIST OF ONE CATTLE GROWER, ONE SHEEP GROWER, ONE MEMBER OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND COUNTY AGENT. AGENTS LINING UP AND ROUTING CONVOYS AND HEAVY MACHINERY TO OPEN ROADS. ALSO ASSISTING IN LOCATING AVAILABLE SURPLUS HAY SUPPLY. RADIO STATIONS COOPERATING WITH FREQUENT WEATHER REPORTS FORECASTING OUTLOOK AND ANY CHANGE. FLOOD DANGER VERY UNLIKELY IN THIS STATE BUT SHOULD WEATHER CONDITIONS CHANGE AGENTS WILL ADVOCATE MOVING LIVESTOCK TO HIGHER GROUND. ASSIST WITH RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ORGANIZING EMERGENCY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TO FACILITATE IN CASE OF FLOOD.

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